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Applicant: Sulzer Markets and Technology AG	

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office transmits herewith the European Search Report for the above referenced European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the search are enclosed.

☐ Additional copy(ies) of the documents cited in the European Search Report are enclosed.

The Search Division approved the following items, as submitted by the applicant:

☒ Abstract ☒ Title

☐ The Abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to the present communication.

The following figure will be published with the Abstract: 1

REFUND OF SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 of the Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent to you later.

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.7)
X	US 4 996 117 A (CHU WING F ET AL) February 26, 1991 (02-26-1991)	1,5,6,10	C23C4/10
Y	* Abstract * * Column 2, line 52 – column 4, line 33 *	2-4,7-9	
X	US 5 722 379 A (IZQUIERDO PATRICK ET AL) March 3, 1998 (03-03-1998)	10	
Y	* Column 3, line 65 – column 4, line 29; Figures 2,3 *	2-4,7-9	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.7) C23C
D,Y	EP 1 225 251 A (GEN ELECTRIC) July 24, 2002 (07-24-2002) * the whole document * * Column 6, line 25 – line 30 * * Column 6, line 7 – line 11 *	2,4	
Y	US 6 203 927 B1 (SABOL STEPHEN M ET AL) March 20, 2001 (03-20-2001) * the whole document * * Column 3, line 6 – column 4, line 11 *	2,4	
Y	US 5 059 095 A (KUSHNER BURTON A ET AL) October 22, 1991 (10-22-1991) * Column 3, line 25 – line 28 *	2	
Y	WO 99 42630 A (GADOW RAINER; SCHAEFER (DE)) August 26, 1999 (08-26-1999) * Figures 8, 9, 11 *	3, 7-9	
Y	WO 97 18341 A (UNIV RUGERS; UNIV CONNECTICUT (US)) May 22, 1997 (05-22-1997) * the whole document * -----	3,7-9	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of search April 22, 2003	Examiner F. Hintermaier
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X:	particularly relevant if taken alone	T:	theory or principle underlying the invention
Y:	particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category	E:	earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date
A:	technological background	D:	document cited in the application
O:	non-written disclosure	L:	document cited for other reasons
P:	intermediate document	&:	member of the same patent family, corresponding document

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT FOR EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 02 40 6010

This annex lists the members of the patent families for the patent documents cited in the above referenced search report.

The information on the family members corresponds to the records of the European Patent Office as of This data is for informational purposes only with no guarantee of accuracy.

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For further details regarding this Annex: see the Official Gazette of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82